635

Under the Wazīr Wazārat are *tahsīldārs* and sometimes sub-divisional officers. All these officers exercise revenue, civil, and criminal jurisdiction, with regular stages of appeal. In revenue cases the appeal lies to the governor, and from him to the revenue minister. In civil and criminal judicial cases the appeal lies to the Chief Judge of Jammu. From him there is an appeal to the judicial minister, who is virtually the final court, and it is only on rare occasions that an appeal is made from him to the Mahārājā. All death sentences passed by the Chief Judge require the confirmation of the Mahārājā. In 1900–1 there were eighty-one courts of all grades, of which eight exercised criminal jurisdiction only. Although there is a centralized form of government as in British India, the real power rests with the *tahsīldār*, and distance and the absence of easy communications are practically checks on the use or abuse of appeals.

691

Before 1892, when the law of limitation was introduced into Jammu, litigation was not very heavy and the people frequently settled their differences out of court. The improvement in the courts, and the effects of this alteration in the law, are shown by the fact that the number of suits for money or movable property increased from an average of 3,735 during the ten years ending 1890 to 10,766 in the next decade, and was 12,160 in 1900–1. The system of registration for deeds resembles that in British India. In 1900–1 the number of documents registered was 1,348.

674

Crime is not serious in the Jammu province; but there has been an increase in cases of theft, hurt, and mischief, due to the greater activity of the police force, which is being gradually assimilated to the rules and procedure prevailing in British India. In the whole State 17,320 persons were brought to trial in 1900–1, of whom 2,169, or 13 per cent., were convicted.

635

In Kashmīr the *tahsīls* in the valley are superintended by the governor himself, while those of the Muzaffarābād district are in charge of a Wazīr Wazārat subject to the governor and the Chief Judge, whose offices are in Srīnagar.

652 **Finance.**

The finances of the State are immediately controlled by an accountant-general, who for some years has been lent by the British Government. The revenue and expenditure for 1895–6, 1900–1, and 1905–6 are shown in tables at the end of this article (pp. 84–5). In the last year the total revenue was 93 lakhs, the chief items being land revenue (38·9 lakhs), forests (13 lakhs), customs and octroi (9·2 lakhs), and scientific and minor departments (2·2 lakhs). The expenditure of one crore included

657 State were measures vital to the advancement of the people, such as the
692 Prevention of Infant Marriage Regulation, raising the age of consent to 14 for girls and 18 for boys and the stoppage of female infanticide amongst Rajputs and prohibition of juvenile smoking. Many of the improvements in roads, industry, communications, education, irrigation, sanitation etc, which have already been dealt with owe their origin to his solicitude to see his subjects happy and prosperous.

642 The administration is conducted by His Highness through Ministers (now headed by a Prime Minister) who enjoy large powers in their respective portfolios. His Highness has followed a policy of decentralisation of powers in all branches of administration consistent with efficiency and good Government.

692 31. Courts.—The stability and growth of society hinges to a large extent on the efficient and speedy administration of justice through the channel of Judicial Courts and on the enactment of laws conducive to the welfare of the masses. The Census Report is not the proper place to record an account of the various salutary laws passed during the decade as the space is naturally limited and no justice can be done to the subject. As regards the Judicial system of the State it is modelled on the British Indian system of administration of justice with certain important differences such as the exercise of civil and criminal jurisdiction by the same judicial officers and the facilities allowed to litigants to appear personally in the High Court to plead their own. The separation for which a vigorous and persistent demand exists in British India is already in operation here.

The decade has witnessed the formation of a High Court Bench consisting of a Chief Justice and two Judges in supersession of the former system of a single Chief Justice of the High Court. His Highness takes a personal interest in the selection of Judges who are consequently compare favourably with their compeers in British India. The judiciary in the subordinate courts is recruited from amongst qualified hands who are either barristers or graduates of law.

691 The total number of Courts has increased as will be seen in the margin.
692 The number of suits disposed in
652 1931 comes to 21,904 while the suits filed number 20,641 which is a sure proof of the fact that justice is not delayed but promptly administered. Moreover the spirit of litigation seems on the decline as the number of suits filed in 1921 was 23,038. The expenditure of the Judicial Department has risen from Rs. 510,978 in 1921 to Rs. 646,346 in 1931. The highest expenditure was incurred in 1928 when it came to Rs. 733,302. The total cost of administration of justice for the decade is Rs. 7,038,725.

	Numbers at Census	
	1921.	1931.
Civil Courts ..	28	32
Criminal Courts ..	107	107
Revenue .. (combining subordinate powers) ..	25	27
Lawyers including Advocates ..	139	111

625 32. Police.—The decade has witnessed the augmentation of the Police
652 Force in all ranks and a rise in the scope and conclusiveness of those constituents of public peace and safety. The diagram in the margin will convince the reader of the rapid progress made in the State in this direction. The Executive and the Clerical Staff was augmented. The total cost of Police Force in 1930 was Rs. 712,588 compared to Rs. 414,621 in 1921, giving an increase of 71% per cent. As regards offences, those against State and public tranquility, murders and other offences against person exhibited an increase, while

	1931.
Inspector-General of Police ..	1
Deputy Inspector-General of Police ..	2
Superintendents of Police ..	7
Assistant Superintendents of Police ..	6
Inspectors ..	22
Sub-Inspectors ..	38
Head Constables ..	207
Constables ..	1,210

674

674 dacoities, thefts and house-trespasses suffered a decline. In murders, dacoities and other offences against person the district of Mirpur holds an unenviable position while in theft the Srinagar district stands out first. In house-breaking and trespass the Jammu district proves abnormally adept. The total number of offences reported during the decade came to 31,813 while 4,891 offences came at a tragedy of the previous years. The number of accused arrested during the decade was 30,302.

VI. The movement of the population.

161 32. In the preceding pages the conditions of the decade have been recorded in somewhat detail and we are now in possession of fairly enough data to judge the causes of the growth of population in the different parts of the country during the closing decade. With the exception of the floods which made appearance towards the close of the decade, the decennium has been one of all round peace and progress, as it enjoyed freedom from virulent epidemics like Influenza which carried away about 45,000 souls during the last decade, and from wars requiring the removal of a large amount of adult population from the country giving rise to factors which reduced the birth rate considerably. On the other hand maintenance of peace and order and development of irrigation, communications, trade and industry were factors helpful to the growth of population which consequently has registered an increase of 325,725 souls or 9·8 per cent. during the decade as against 3·1 per cent. increase of 1921 and 8·9 of 1911. The percentage increase i. e. 9·8 is highly satisfactory as it is almost on par with the increase for the whole of India which comes to 10·6 per cent. The increase is also quite in level with the increase in Mysore (9·7 per cent.), Gwalior (10·3 per cent.) and Punjab States (11·2 per cent.) although the Baroda and Hyderabad States show a big jump of 14·9 per cent. and 13·8 per cent. increases between 1921 and 1931 as against the 4·6 per cent. increase in case of Baroda and 6·8 per cent. decrease in Hyderabad in the decade 1911-1921.

Of the British Indian Provinces the percentage increases are :—

Bengal (7·3), Bihar Orissa (10·9), Bombay (13·3), Burma (11), Central Provinces (11·1), Madras (10·4) North-West Frontier Province (7·7), United Provinces (9·7) and Punjab (14·0).

The average density per square mile has also increased to 43 from 39 of the last Census and as already observed from 147 to 160·3 in case of the Jammu and Kashmir Provinces excluding the Frontier Districts.

163 33. **Vital Statistics.**—The adjoining table shows the vital statistics for
165 the two years and it may be stated without any fear of contradiction that the machinery of these statistics continues to be full of vagaries and the results are so faulty that it would be simply wasting time to attempt to build up the birth and death rates from these unreliable data.

Name of District.	Number of Births in the District (Male, Female)	Number of Deaths in the District (Male, Female)	Excess of Births over Deaths (Male, Female)	Excess of Deaths over Births (Male, Female)	Increase or decrease in the population between 1921 & 1931.
[illegible] ..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
[illegible] ..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
[illegible] ..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
[illegible] ..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
[illegible] ..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
[illegible] ..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
[illegible] ..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
[illegible] ..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
[illegible] ..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ [illegible]